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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Professor Robert Rompe

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1. Although his official position in the Central Administration for Popular Education does not make him a legitimate dictator to the University of Berlin, Professor Robert Rompe appears to represent Soviet direction of university life. In the argument over control of the university, Rompe played the decisive role behind the scenes. He heads a group of instructors who are exclusively KPD and have no SPD sympathizers.
2. In the Cultural Secretariat of the SED, nominally headed by Anton Ackermann, Rompe is Chief of Scientific Training. He does not exercise his functions publicly, but, evidently with Soviet sponsorship, has been granted extensive influence in the party academy (Parteihochschule) in Klein-Machnow, Berlin. All academic and scientific questions were settled between him and Professor Zolotukhin, Chief of the Education Branch of SMA, before being discussed in the Central Administration.
3. Rompe is absent longer and more frequently from the Central Administration than were discussion periods would warrant, and it is therefore believed that he also has his own office in Karlshorst. He usually returns from an absence with new recommendations and instructions from Russian sources.

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Background information on Rompe includes the following: He contributed to the first issue of the Communist publication Forum in January 1947. He was described by Professor Rontormans as a Communist of the ideological type, regarding Stalinism as only a passing phase of world Communism, but admitted that he was a member for science on the Central Committee of the KPD. Confirmed as a member of the KPD Central Committee by two independent sources, he was reported working in Berlin on scientific Soviet assignments before the Russians arrived in 1945. He was born in 1905 in St. Petersburg, of a German family long in Russia, which returned to Berlin in 1914; he speaks Russian fluently. During the war he worked for the Osram firm, evacuated to Hildesheim-Odenitz. Reported to have made contact with the Russians voluntarily, he was seen in Russia, before his return to Berlin. He has tried to recruit scientists from the western zones for work either in Berlin or the Russian Zone, notably at a conference of western zone bio-physicists in April 1948.)

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